



Ruth H. Hooker

“by the application of great technical knowledge in the fields of physical sciences, superb technical knowledge in the fields of library sciences, and astuteness as an administrator, has created a service organization of world-wide repute which has been a most vital force in the great scientific accomplishments of the Naval Research Laboratory.”

— Martin E. Jansson

Head, Technical Information Division - 1961

1901

Born January 24 in Dorchester, Nebraska, to David L. and Florence R. (Weston) Hutchison.

1921-1923

Attended University of Kansas and majored in Physics.

1924-1925

Attended University of Southern California and majored in Physics.

1926-1927

Attended George Washington University, majored in Mathematics, and was awarded an A.B. degree in June 1927.

1927

Physics Instructor, Hood College, Maryland.

Hired by NRL, established a library on the second floor of Building 1.

1928-1930

Attended George Washington University and received a Library Science degree.

1931

Married William B. Hooker (June 5, 1931).

1934

Son William Weston Hooker born (September 9, 1934).

Mary Lynch, first assistant appointed.

1935

Attended her first Special Libraries Association (SLA) convention and came back with a new idea to index new publications and articles and publish them as the *New Research Literature*.

Published “A Study of Scientific Periodicals” in *Review of Scientific Instruments*.

1939

Daughter Margaret Ann Hooker (Smith) born (December 3, 1939).

Charter member and first treasurer of the Washington Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

1942

Attended the Berlitz School of Languages for German and French.

1945-1948

President, Washington Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

1948

Elected Vice President of the Special Libraries Association.

1949

Elected President of the Special Libraries Association.

1950

The Library Directors of Harvard University, MIT, and Boston Athenaeum recommended to the Secretary of the Navy that a Coordinator of Naval Libraries position be established and further recommended that Mrs. Hooker fill the position.

1951-1954

Served as Coordinator of Naval Libraries and Director of the Navy Department Library.

1954

Named to *Who's Who in America*.

1955

Appointed by the U.S. Civil Service Commission to serve on the Board of U.S. Civil Service Examiners for the Department of the Navy.

Provided recommendations for the Post Office Department Library system.

1956

Designated by the Chief of Naval Operations to represent the Navy Department at the International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centers meeting in Brussels.

1956-1957

Served on a Cooperating Committee concerned with the rewriting of Civil Service Commission specifications for clerical, subprofessional, and professional positions in the library series.

1959

Accepted another year's appointment on the Union List of Serials Committee of the Special Libraries Association.

Appointed the Special Libraries Association liaison representative with whom the Library of Congress may consult concerning a study of the problems with acquiring foreign technical library material (Public Law 480, 83rd Congress).

1960

Became a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Current Contents of Space and Physical Sciences* published by the Institute for Scientific Information.

Requested by the U.S. Civil Service Commission to serve on a committee to develop written tests for persons who wish to qualify as professional librarians solely on the basis of experience.

Navy's Inspector General (IG) instructed NRL Library to conduct an experiment in machine storage and retrieval of its scientific information, using the library's indexing of over three million items from 1928-1960 since the NRL Library had “the largest single collection of foreign and domestic journals and the experience gained will be extremely valuable to the scientific community as a whole.”

1962

“Manual System at NRL Works Well, Survey Advises Against Mechanization” *Navy Management Review* written by Ruth Hooker in response to the Navy IG request, found that the library staff were far more efficient than the state of the art at the time (four minutes average staff time compared with four hours machine time).

1964

Awarded the U.S. Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

1965

Elected to the Special Libraries Association Hall of Fame.

Retired after a 38-year career at NRL (February 12, 1965) and moved to Port Hueneme, California.

1974

Son William Weston Hooker dies.

1975

Captain John Geary officially names the NRL library the *Ruth H. Hooker Technical Library* on October 14th – the first and only DoD library to be named for a living person.

1984

Husband William B. Hooker dies.

1993

Ruth Hutchison Hooker dies on February 3, 1993, in San Jose, California.

milestones and legends